

Message Text

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R 160138Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063154

NAIROBI FOR RSS; KINSHASA FOR RSO; ADDIS FOR CO, COMPANY "F"

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: FAMILARIZATION FIRING FOR MARINE SECURITY GUARDS

REF: ADDIS ABABA'S 2912

1. IN REVIEWING CO, COMPANY "F" TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO YAOUNDE, IT APPEARS THAT THE CASE FOR MARINE GUARD FAMILARIZATION FIRING HAS BEEN STRONGLY OVERSTATED. PRESENT POLICY REQUIRES THE MARINE GUARD TO BE ARMED ON DUTY AND TO FIRE THE WEAPON FOR FAMILARIZATION AT LEAST SEMI-ANNUALLY, IF THE SITUATION AT POST PERMITS.

2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY SOME POSTS FOR FAM-FIRING REFERRED TO BY THE CO, COMPANY "F" ARE JUST THAT. SY HAS NOT BEEN ASKED TO APPROVE OR FUND TDY EXPENSES TO NEAR-BY POSTS FOR MARINE GUARDS FOR FAM-FIRING. THEREFORE, THIS SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT MADE BY AN INDIVIDUAL POST TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS CANNOT BE CITED AS PRECEDENT OR POLICY
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REQUIRING COMPLIANCE BY OTHER POSTS.

, SY IS AWARE THAT FAM-FIRING IS NOT POSSIBLE AT SOME POSTS, AND ACCEPTS THIS FACT. MOST OF THESE POSTS ARE ONE (1) YEAR ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARINES. THESE MARINES HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE FIRE-ARMS TRAINING IN THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO SUCH ASSIGNMENTS. THIS TO SOME EXTENT COMPENSATES FOR THE LACK OF FAMILARIZATION FIRING AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL INTERVAL.

4. WHILE SY WOULD ENCOURAGE ANY ACTION THAT CAN BE TAKEN WITHIN THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES OF THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE SEMI-ANNUAL FIRE-ARMS TRAINING FOR THE MARINES, IT DOES NOT WANT THE EMBASSY TO CONCLUDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OR SY POLICY EMANATES FROM THE MARINE COMPANY COMMANDER WHO EXPRESSES ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION TO CERTAIN DESIRED PRACTICES THAT DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO ALL POSTS WHERE MARINES ARE ASSIGNED. KISSINGER

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